



Friday 3 October 2008

Media Release

More help on spina bifida and hydrocephalus for Cambridgeshire

National charity ASBAH (Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus), is pleased to announce that an area adviser will now be covering the Cambridgeshire area. Sharon Lapsley, will be available one day a week to give one-to-one advice to those whose lives are affected by hydrocephalus or spina bifida.

Sharon, who also offers advice in the Northamptonshire area, can provide support on all aspects of spina bifida and hydrocephalus to parents, carers, individuals and professionals. Sharon's role involves visiting schools, employers and homes to explain how spina bifida and hydrocephalus can affect a person's a life and advice on what can be done to help.

ASBAH also has a national helpline which is the first point of contact for all the services they offer: from information, publications and advice on daily living, to access to advisers like Sharon, as well as specialist advisers for medical and educational aspects of spina bifida and hydrocephalus. The helpline, deals with thousands of calls each year.

Sharon said, 'Although the ASBAH helpline is fantastic for spina bifida and hydrocephalus related queries, sometimes it is beneficial to have someone to visit the family home, workplace or school, in person, to have more time to explain and give advice on spina bifida and hydrocephalus. I am so pleased that I am now able to do this in the Cambridgeshire area.'

Information and advice on Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus is also available on the ASBAH website, www.asbah.org. The ASBAH helpline is open Monday to Friday - 10am - 4pm - 0845 450 7755 (local rate call)

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Notes to editors:

The Peterborough-based national charity provides spina bifida and hydrocephalus information and advice to individuals, families and carers. The charity's head office, located on Park Road, Peterborough, also houses the eastern regional ASBAH office and the national helpline.

Spina bifida occurs early in pregnancy and causes damage to the spinal cord and nerves which may result in paralysis below the level of the fault. Many people with spina bifida also have hydrocephalus, caused by a build up of fluid in the ventricles of the brain. Hydrocephalus can occur for other reasons, for example, in premature babies or after meningitis, a head injury, or stroke.

Registered charity number 249338

ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ

www.asbah.org

Case Studies

The Association for spina bifida and hydrocephalus is in touch with a number of families and individuals who have been affected by spina bifida or hydrocephalus and who are happy to be interviewed and speak of their experiences. Please get in touch with our Regional Manager, David Isom on 01733 421309

Media Enquires

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